Expert Committee report on cost of production of Crops

672. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee headed by Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao set up by government to review the methodology of cost of production of crops has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (A) Yes, Sir. The Expert Committee submitted its Final Report on 31st July, 1990.

(b) The recommendations made by the Expert Committee are being examined.

Prices of Sugar

673. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of record production of 107 lakh tonnes of sugar the prices have not come down substantially; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons and what action Government are taking to bring down sugar prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b). the Sugar production during the current season is likely to be about 109 lakh tonnes. As a result of various measures taken by the Govt. the prices of sugar in various parts of the country have remained fairly stable during the past few months.

Allotment of Land to Budha Tri Ratna Mission

674. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2498 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the DDA has incorporated the utilization of the land in the lay out plan of the area since then;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of a regularisation of the encroached area earmarked for Rock Garden and open theatre in the Chittaranjan Park for Kali bari Samiti for relegious purpose at free of cost recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which the case of the Budha Tri Ratna Mission has not been finalised?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) In the modified lay out plan land use of the two plots (green and religious institution respectively) has been interchanged and thus this problem stands sorted out.

(c) No encroachment in this Colony has been regularised free of cost so far.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Construction of Rail Bridges on River Ganga in Patna

675. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct a rail bridge on Ganga river in Patna to help industrial development of South Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been sent to Planning Commission for consideration; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken for speedy approval by the Planning Commission for its implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (d). An Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a rail bridge across the river Ganga near Patna has been taken up. Further action on the project will depend upon the results of the Survey and availability of resources in the coming years.

Implementation of Essential Commodities Act

676. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Advisory Council on Public Distribution System has called for sustained and effective implementation of the Essential Commodities Act to streamline the Public Distribution System in the country;

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto; and

(c) what further steps Government propose to take to streamline the Public Distribution System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Union Government has also been advising the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to undertake strict and sustained enforcement of the provisions of Essential Commodities Act and other similar legislations. The States / UTs have also been requested to continually strengthen and streamline the PDS, through activising Vigilance Committees, empowering delivery systems to fair price shops, consider supply of additional commodities of mass consumption through fair price shops and undertake constant monitoring of availability situation.

Punctuality of Trains and Amenities to Commuters

677. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the punctuality of the trains and better amenities to its commuters have been badly affected during the last six months;

(b) whether Government propose to maintain punctuality in trains and provide adequate amenities to its commuters; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps taken / propose to be taken to improve the services of trains throughout the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) Unavoidable causes like devastation by cyclone on East Coast, heavy unprecedented rains in Andhra Pradesh, Bombay area and Rajasthan, dense fog in January, 1990 besides Bandhs in Assam, Punjab, Tamilnadu, alarm chain pulling etc. Total power break down in West Bengal on 26-6-90 and a few equipment failures did affect the punctuality of trains. The amenities to passengers are being maintained.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Monitoring and intensive chasing is continuing to improve performance.

Job Scandal Involving Indian Workers in Iraq

678. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of Indian workers are stranded without wages and adequate amenities in Iraq due to an alleged job scandal and swindling by a Bombay based recruiting agent as